



## 2008 Arbor Day Grant Program “PLANTING IDAHO”

The Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association (**INLA**), in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Lands (**IDL**), Avista, Rocky Mountain Power, and Idaho Power, is pleased to announce a new program intended to help cities celebrate Arbor Day, plant appropriate trees for energy conservation and foster a stronger relationship between Idaho communities and the Green Industry. This year, the INLA will offer Arbor Day grants to Idaho communities in the amount of \$300.00 each for “Planting Idaho”. Funding for this program is provided by the generous contributions of these Idaho utilities that have a large interest in healthy urban forests and having the **right tree planted in the right place**.



In these times of environmental awareness, many communities are becoming acutely aware of the benefits that trees provide. In fact, planting trees is one of the best ways cities can positively influence the environment. Trees mitigate stormwater run-off minimizing the impact on city infrastructure, conserve energy by cooling buildings and parking lots (reducing “heat islands”), and protect watersheds and the air we breathe through pollutant removal—thereby improving the quality of life of residents and visitors. Other long-term benefits include carbon sequestration, soil stabilization, wildlife habitat, and an increase in property values and business in downtown areas.



All Idaho communities are eligible to participate in the “Planting Idaho” program. A lottery style drawing will be used to determine who receives each of the 35 available grants. Applications must be received by INLA no later than March 14, 2008 to be considered. A list of **INLA** members will be provided to the grantees so they may purchase quality plant material and receive reliable advice on selection, planting and care, thus ensuring a significant positive impact on Idaho’s environment.



This is a **reimbursement** grant. Therefore, grantee communities must submit copies of paid invoices for plant material, with check numbers, in the amount of at least \$300 to receive full payment of the grant. Grant funds can be used for purchasing trees, shrubs and related materials. Additionally, a match of 25% (\$75) in cash or in-kind donation is required by the grantee.



Idaho joins most other states in celebrating Arbor Day on Friday, April 25, 2008. However, trees and planting conditions don’t honor calendars – your community may choose to celebrate Arbor Day on a different date.



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